

Toponymy Evolution of Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil

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Abstract. The State of Rio de Janeiro possesses 92 (ninety two) installed municipal districts and 188 districts. Distributed among those municipal districts there are approximately 850 villages or population nuclei. This geographical space was inhabited at the discovery time, in 1500, by Indians of Tupi origin, along the coast, Jês, also known as Goytacases in Rio Paraíba's mouth and Puris in the interior. Seeking to recognize and to map the Brazilian territory, Portugal sent the first exploiting expedition, commanded by Gaspar de Lemos in 1501 and soon afterwards in 1502 with Gonçalo Coelho. In these expeditions were experienced navigators and cartographers, as for instance, Américo Vespúcio. In this way, in spite of place names existed exclusively in local language, began the process of nomination of the new territory, standing out the Cable of San Tome, Cabo Frio, Angra dos Reis and own Rio de Janeiro, using the new Portuguese language. However must be noticed the influence of the local language in place names, on a complete or hybrid way. Since the beginning of the century XVI the toponymy of the State has been going by several historical periods, which in many cases determined changes of some place names in affected areas for the processes.

This paper aims to show the connection among the study of the historical maps, the geographical space and the toponymy of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Initially the research will present the work on the names of the settlement nuclei, through the analysis on the changes occurred according to each corresponding historical period.

The proposed methodology for the study is performed by the extraction of the geographical names (toponymy) from the historical maps, identifying its geographical positioning and associating it to the actual toponymy, according to the geographical names database of Rio de Janeiro state. In this way, the evolution of the name will be studied, as well as the comparison with the current name, seeking for and identifying changes in the name, considering also those derived by orthographic changes. It is still intended

to verify and to define the changes motivation in cultural, political or other possible aspects.

The final product of the research will be the addition of the place names and their motivations according the historical-cartographic-geographical study, to the geographical names database of Rio de Janeiro state.

Keywords: Toponymic evolution, toponymic motivation, Rio de Janeiro State toponymy, Geographical Names Database

1. Introduction

In July, 1499, Duarte Pacheco's report to D. Manuel I about the results of his trip confirming a continent in the western hemisphere, Lisbon received the news and the proofs of the discovery of the Marine Road for India, unchaining a great activity on the part of Portuguese Crown in a strategic domains, seeking to structure the first oceanic commercial connection euro-Asian.

As one of the consequences of this news was the nomination of the Admiral Pedro Álvares of Gouveia (Cabral) as command in chief of an India expedition. His mission, among other, was to establishing alliances with local sovereigns, especially in Calicut and Melinde, to attack the Muslim navigation in Indian Ocean, to participate in the trade of the oriental spices, to establish an administration in Calicut and to develop missionary activities in India. The expedition leaves Lisbon on 9th March of 1500.

On April 21st, according the report of Pero Vaz de Caminha, the fleet find some earth signs. On the following day, April 22nd, birds are sighted, new earth indicative and on this same day, in the afternoon, the coast land is sighted. Firstly a great hill, high and round; to the high hill the captain put a name: Paschoal Mount and to the earth, "Terra de Vera Cruz". In this way the first two place names were given to the new discovered land.

In 1501, with the objective of accomplishing a geographical exploration of the discovered land, was sent the first exploratory expedition, commanded by Gaspar de Lemos, with Américo Vespúcio's participation. The expedition hit Brazil in the height of Rio Grande do Norte and, coasting the country to South, nominated almost all coastal geographical accidents: Cabo de São Roque, Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Rio São Francisco, Baia de Todos os Santos, Rio de Janeiro, among others.

The second exploratory expedition happened in 1503, now under Gonçalo Coelho's command. Américo Vespúcio, who had already participated in the previous expedition, was commander of one ship. They approached Brazil for São João Island, later called Fernão de Noronha. In this place the flag-

ship shipwrecked and the expedition became separated. Américo Vespúcio heading for the South, founding an administration (feitoria) and a fort in Cabo Frio, coast of Rio de Janeiro. It also organized the first entrance to the countryside, returning after some months to Lisbon, with their ships loaded of brazilwood.

Others exploratory expeditions were sent, but the main objective was to fight against French and Spaniards invaders.

All those expeditions were important for the beginning of the Brazilian toponymy, in the first time, nominating geographical features along the coast. The navigation along the coast from North to South, not respecting the Tordesilhas' meridian, allowed the nomination of practically all rivers, capes, bays, sandbanks and others features, with Portuguese origin's place names. The indigenous language will only mark presence after the effective beginning of the colonization, which indeed will only happen starting from 1530, even with the occurrence of some intermediate expeditions, mainly for combat to French.

This paper aims to show the connection among the study of the historical maps, the geographical space and the toponymy of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The research will be presented on the names, so much of the settlement nuclei, as of the rivers, islands and mountains, on its ethnicity, analyzing the changes happened according to each corresponding influence factors defined. The research was done on a group of 5 maps, from 1574 the 1830.

2 – Influence Factors of *Fluminense's* Toponymy

The word *flumen*, that means "river", in allusion to "Rio" from the names of the city and province of Rio de Janeiro, came to characterize the adjective relating the place name - fluminense - to the ones who was born in the state of Rio de Janeiro, it was a power factor and decisive for the expansion of the territory. The settler of the future State of Rio de Janeiro was forced, relating to the landscape of his territory, to win not only rivers, lakes, flooding, puddles, flooded lands and swamps, in plans, as well as mountains and plateaus, for the exploration and occupation of the territory.

The study of that territorial expansion shows the existence of five factors that, among others of smaller importance, can be considered of relevance, in the settlement process and, in consequence, in the toponymy of the area. These factors influenced the state area nomination strongly, since the beginning of the colonial period, soon after the implantation of the system of

hereditary captaincies by the Portuguese Government. These factors were the following ones:

- Implantation of the sesmarias system;
- The existence of a dense hydrographic network located on the surrounds of Guanabara bay area;
- An outstanding presence of the Catholic Church in the first two centuries of colonization;
- The exploration of gold and precious stones in Minas Gerais, starting from 1695 and
- The arrival of the royal family in 1808 to Rio de Janeiro.

The sesmarias system contributed so much for the expansion of the known territory, as well as to its exploration. In the hereditary Captaincies system, the acquired rights in the occasion of the donation of the captaincies were hereditary, however, the recipients had the ownership of only twenty per-cent of the total of the lands, owing the remaining to be granted to others.

The sesmarias were donated to rich people, with constituted family, and each one could just receive a donation. The donation conditions forced to owner to measure, survey and to demarcate the lands; to turn them productive with agriculture and to confirm them in skilled time, after having accomplished the first two apprenticeships. It was also of his obligation the complete defense against invasions.

This system marks the effective beginning of the Cologne occupation, with the installation of the first sugar mills and the foundation of the first towns and fortress in the coastal border and in the countryside.

Together with the Catholic Church, the system established the exploratory and expansionist support of Rio de Janeiro territory. The donee, to demonstrate his religiosity and faith, nominated his settlement with the name of his devotion saint, transforming it in the first toponymy of the area.

The second factor was defined by a dense hydrographic network, located inside Guanabara Bay, making easy the penetration for the countryside, starting from the area today known as “Baixada Fluminense”. In this way it happened the creation of a great number of population nuclei, giving origin, to the current municipal districts of that area.

As baixadas existentes desde Mangaratiba até os limites com o Espírito Santo facilitaram, mas também dificultaram a exploração e penetração para o interior, devido aos inúmeros brejos, pântanos e áreas alagadiças.

The existent plans from Mangaratiba until the limits with the Espírito Santo Capitancy, facilitated, but also hindered the exploration and penetration for the interior, due to the countless swamps, flooded areas. Nowadays, some geographical names mark old characteristics of these places, such as: Channel of the Swamp (Canal do Mangue), river of the Swamp (Rio do Brejo), farm of the Swamp (Fazenda do Brejo), among others. Some names had a direct relationship with problems like a penetration barrier or even of salubrity in the area. An example is the Rio Meriti, one of the most important of the area, known previously as Rio dos Mosquitos (Mosquito River).

The first settlers penetrated in the area following the riverbed of Meriti, Suruí, Sarapuí, Iguaçu, Magé, Inhomirim, Guapimirim, Macacu and Guaxindiba rivers, among other, installing the first sugarcane mills and population nuclei, as well as developing the agriculture in the occupied area.

The fluvial ports of Estrella and the Nossa Senhora da Piedade do Iguaçu were examples of two important points for this penetration, being interposed of provisioning and infrastructure of transports for travelers and exploiters besides the Mountain of the Sea, in the road of Minas Gerais..

The presence effective and constant of the Catholic Church in the territory during the first two centuries of colonization, characterizes the third influence. It was motivated and allowed by the political power of the time, which had their resources totally committed with the bureaucratic apparel and with the defense against external invaders.

This factor had a pioneering role in the mediation between the Portuguese culture and the one of the original people of Brazil, interlacing their inherent religious functions to the power of the Portuguese Crown, taking for itself the role of aggregation of the population. The project of occupation of the colony comes to be also a project for the expansion of the Catholic religion in the Cologne. From the city of Rio de Janeiro, exploratory incursions of priests, following the rivers of the area, and transposing the mountains, building small chapels, catechesis schools, likewise contributing to the complete territory occupation. The chapel usually was located in a privileged position in the space organization of the first populations seeking to have a social dominance and the surveillance of the territory. (SAINTOS 2006)

This factor influenced considerably the toponymy of Rio de Janeiro in the first two centuries of colonization and in subsequent years, relating three main aspects: the cults, parties and charitable fête brought a social conviviality for the population. Around the mother church he/she was organized a village, with a small trade, some services and homes, being the nucleus of the future towns and municipal districts; the settler's permanence in the

origin clientele make easy the identity with the place. The place almost the time had the geographical name coming from the hagiologic of the Catholic Church. Finally, the priests, Jesuits in majority, were creative and users of new language, the General Language, that was composed of a mixture of Portuguese words and of the native people who inhabited the fluminense lands, in Tupi and Guarani. Later, were associated words from African languages origin, such as banto.

The great influence of the General Language is verified in the denomination of the fluminense geographical names until the present day, in spite of the Tupi's language prohibition use in the 18th Century and Jesuits' expulsion from 1759. It is shown in the lithotoponyms (Itatiaia, Itaperuna, Itaocara etc), zootoponyms (Sapucaia, Saquarema, Tanguá etc), phitotoponyms (Pirai, Miracema, Maricá etc.) and even in the names of the Catholic Church hagiology, accompanying the saints' (São João de Meriti, São Francisco de Itabapoana, São José de Ubá etc) nomenclature.

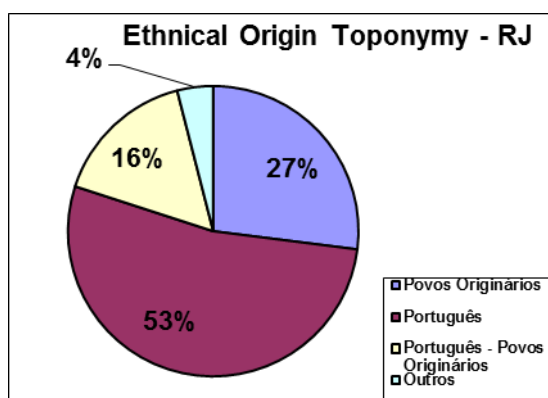


Figura 2.1 – Ethnical Origin of place names Rio de Janeiro– RJ

The figure 2.1 shows the behavior in the present days you act in if treating of the ethny of Rio de Janeiro geographical names.

This influence passes over, the traditional aspect of the native names, sometimes reaching an exaggeration degree, when in cabinet, names as Italva were created, over a mixed orthography, meaning something like White Stone (Pedra Alva).

The largest acceptance from the European in favor of Tupi's terminology, comparing to the Africans, can be justified, because during the 18th Century there were few black people, occupying a secondary role, relating the process of place. Its contribution today, presents about 300 names have to the

Portuguese vocabulary, while the Tupi, contributed with more than 10.000 names.



Figure 2.2 – Ethnic Toponymy Map (SANTOS, 2006)

The figure 2.2 shows the dispersion of the linguistic ethnicity, relating to the current municipal districts. This distribution will present more accentuated variations, when the observation scale of the geographical names increases (MENEZES 2012).

The fourth factor was evidenced starting from 1695, through the mining of precious stones and gold in Minas Gerais. The territory of Rio de Janeiro presented some strategic characteristics, relating to the exploration and trade of Minas, possessing the port through where the production of precious metals was exported to Portugal and the network of roads in its territory, which, starting from the plans and Guanabara Bay drained the production coming from Minas Gerais.

These characteristics created conditions for new settlements to give support to the new colony economical axis. One of the facts of larger importance was the transfer of the capital of the colony of Salvador to Rio de Janeiro in 1763.

The first roads towards Minas Gerais were from São Paulo. But because the proximity between Rio and Minas, some roads were built, first through Paraty, transposing the mountains and arriving to the São Paulo Road.

There was, to have a larger and faster fiscal control of the production, at the end of 17th Century, an incentive for opening new roads. At that time, several "New Roads", generating two important consequences to Rio de Janeiro, accelerating its development, as well as facilitating the settlers' fixation along the roads, through the sesmarias concession. Close to the ranches and lodgings, new mills were built for the sugar production, mainly in the Rio Paraíba do Sul Valley.

The fifth factor was the arrival of the royal family to Rio de Janeiro, in 1808. D. João VI settled with his court in Brazil, avoiding the threats of invasion of Portugal on the part of Napoleon, after defining Portugal as English ally. The city of Rio de Janeiro was out the first and only city in the world to base an European Empire outside the own Europe.

The arrival of the Portuguese court caused a true change, considering political and economic aspects, so much in the city of Rio de Janeiro, as well as in the whole Cologne. Old difficulties to the economic and cultural activities were overpassed, and finally a new political structure in 1815, elevates the Cologne to the condition of "United Kingdom of Portugal and Algarves."

There was a considerable increase of the population, stimulating the production of foods, not only in the proximities of the city, like São Gonçalo, Big Beach and Magé, but also in other areas of the captaincy.

The opening of new and the improvement of the old roads, allied to a strong incentive to the immigration, had as consequence the creation of new population nuclei, helping in the expansion of the territory of Rio de Janeiro for countryside. The nuclei of Nova Friburgo, in 1818 and Petrópolis in 1840, are two examples of this kind of settlement, developed with Swiss and Germans immigrants.

3 – A Historical Cartographic Approach of the Toponymy Evolution

The analysis developed by the research took in consideration five maps involving the territory of the State of Rio de Janeiro: Luiz Teixeira's 1574 codex; the Mapa Chorográfico da Capitania do Rio de Janeiro from 1732, of Domingos Capassi, the Carta corographica da capitania do Ryo de Janeyro, de 1777 made by Francisco João Roscio, the Carta Geographica da Província do Rio de Janeiro, de 1823 and the Planta da Província do Rio de Janeiro of 1830.

The used methodology consisted of the extraction of the geographical names and comparison of the ethnicity of each one, as well as the iden-

3.1 – Luiz Teixeira 1574, Brazilian first Atlas

terra de leste oeste
tem o Cabo Estasi
guia alnixo

Aldeas

Povo

Bahiadelema

Bahiaferrofia

pedra

terra vuido
spualto

[illegible]

Figures 3.2 and 3.3, Guanabara Bay and Angra dos Reis.

There were extracted 52 place names, which were classified by its ethnicity. Almost all names concern to geographical features, few of them are nominating villas or small settlements. It is noticed the existence of words in local language (Tupi), almost in equal amount relating to the Portuguese.

This map shows the first and the second influence factor for the toponymy of Rio de Janeiro and the figure 3.4 shows the ethnicity distribution.

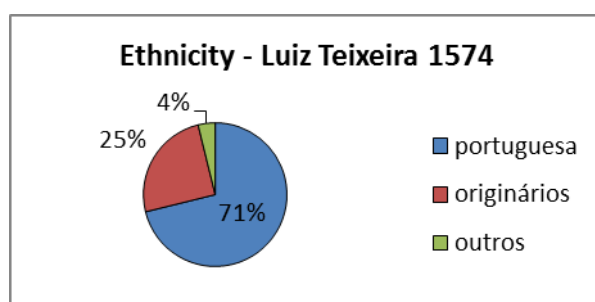


Figure 3.4 - Ethnicity distribution of 1574 Map

3.2 – Mapa Chorográfico da Capitania do Rio de Janeiro

This map, were developed by Domenico Capacci or Domingos Capassi, one of the Jesuits priests, and called as mathematicians, coming from the colo-

ny by order of D. João V in 1729. At that time begun the point positioning through astronomical coordinates, as well as the developing of several maps in Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and others places of the Cologne. The probable date of the map is 1732. The figure 3.5 shows the map of Capassi.



Figure 3.5 - Mapa Chorográfico da Capitania do Rio de Janeiro – 1732 – FBN, Rio de Janeiro

It is verified that the map already has a close shape of the reality, due to the positioning of the astronomical coordinates. The hydrographic network is shown with a reasonable density and some towns are already presented. Some main roads to Minas Gerais are also represented.

The number of geographical names is greater than to the Luiz Teixeira's map and even relating to other cartographers of the 18th Century. The represented countryside already show names most of them the same until the current days, such as: Lagoa Fea (Lagoa Feia), Serra dos Orgãos, Bahia Fermoza, Ponta Negra, Saquarema, Magé Mirim, I Redonda, I Raza, R Sarapuy, Ilha Grande, Mengaratiba, among others.

The number of place names in language local or even hybrid already begins coming with an accentuated tendency of growth. A total amount of 126 place names was extracted of the map. A great majority are recognized until today. However, it is still verified the little influence of the Church, however still display an outstanding influence of the first two factors.

The ethnicity of the place names can be verified by the figure 3.6.

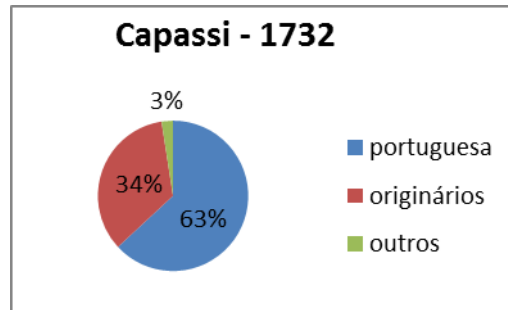


Figure 3.6 – Ethnicity of the Mapa Chorográfico da Capitania do Rio de Janeiro - 1732

The ethnicity distribution has a small difference from the previous one, relating to other influences (foreign names), however there are a decrease of the Portuguese names and an increase of the names in original language.

3.3 - Carta corographica da capitania do Ryo de Janeyro, capital dos estados do Brasil

Designed in 1777 by Francisco João Roscio, Sergeant Mayor Engineer, this map presents the exploration and occupation of the territory of Rio de Janeiro, showing in a quite explicit way the third and the fourth influence factors. This map belongs to the National Library, in Rio de Janeiro.

The number of settlements is already quite expressive, competing with the rivers names, about 35% for each one. The figure 3.7 shows the researched map.



Figure 3.7 – Carta corographica da capitania do Ryo de Janeyro, capital dos estados do Brasil, FBN, Rio de Janeiro

In this map were collected 348 place names and it is possible to see an expressive increase of them in the original language, according the figure 3.8. Besides the first two factors, already existent, it is confirmed the two following factors, the Catholic presence and the exploration of Minas Gerais.

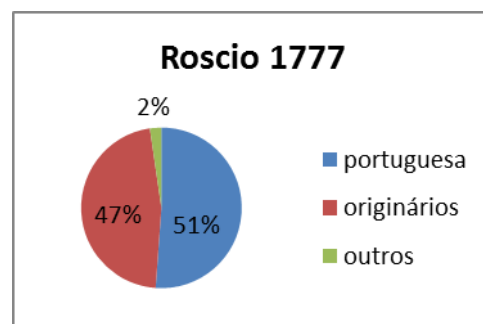


Figure 3.8 – Ethnicity of the Roscio Map – 1777

3.4 - Carta Geographica da Província do Rio de Janeiro

This map belongs to National Librarian of Rio de Janeiro and was copied by the Military Archive from Lisboa in 1823. The figure 3.9 shows the map.



Figure 3.9 - Carta Geographica da Província do Rio de Janeiro 1823 – FBN, Rio de Janeiro

In spite of this map having the date of 1823, it is presumed to be older, once it was copied by the Real Military Archive at that time. Compared to the last analyzed map, the difference of dates is practically 46 years, however during this time there were no relevant documents, but may be considered quite relevant, the number of collected place names, as well as for improvement of the drawing of the representation.

An interesting presented detail on this map is the place name "Sea of Brazil – Mar do Brasil", indicating the Atlantic Ocean. This map is one of the few ones that depict this place name. It were collected 583 place names, which already present a differentiated behavior comparing the other maps, including some names geographical hybrid names, formed by part in Portuguese and partly in the local language, as it can be observed in the figure 3.10.

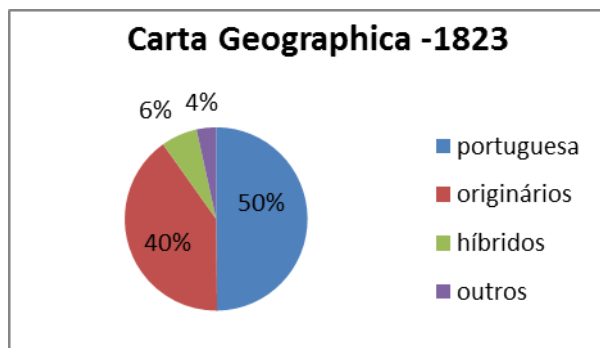


Figure 3.10 – Ethnicity of the 1823 Map

3.5 - Planta da Província do Rio de Janeiro de 1830

The map is presented in the figure 3.11. There were extracted 798 place names, which present a growth in the hybrid place names, however the behavior already tends to normalize, comparing to the current data.



Figure 3.11 - Planta da Província do Rio de Janeiro de 1830 – Arquivo Nacional, Rio de Janeiro

The ethnicity distribution is presented in figure 3.12.

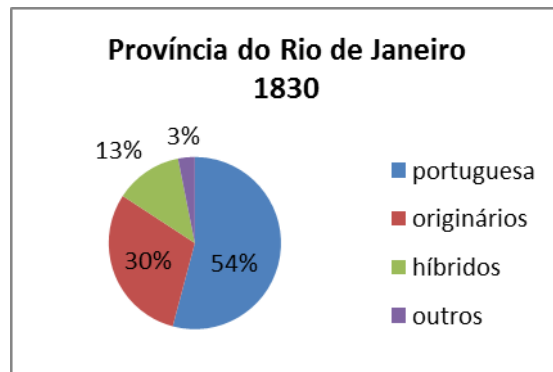


Figure 3.12 – Ethnicity of the 1830

It is verified that the names of Portuguese origin had an increment, but it can be explained as a new religious influence, because a close work from the Empire and the Catholic Church.

4 – Conclusions

The influence factors presented, as the most important for the evolution of the place names of the State of Rio de Janeiro, they can be observed in the presented maps. It is important also, to see the increase of place names. Today it is possible that the toponymy of Rio de Janeiro have around 90000 names.

In a next stage of the research, the names will be referenced according to geographical coordinates and compared, to define a spatial-time comparison.

It will be also established the toponymic motivations, through a geographical historical approach, identifying the changes the time.

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